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Application Serial No. 10/669,457
Reply to Office Action dated August 16, 2006

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A refrigerator comprising:

a cabinet shell;

a liner arranged in the cabinet shell and defining a food compartment;

a door attached to and movable relative to the cabinet shell in order to selectively access the food compartment;

at least one shelving unit provided in the food compartment, said at least one shelving unit including front, rear, bottom and opposing side walls and being adapted to support food items thereon; and

a retainer assembly for securing food items on the at least one shelving unit, said retainer assembly including a divider element mounted for movement along a defined axis relative to the at least one shelving unit and dividing the at least one shelving unit into first and second laterally spaced storage zones, and a biasing member attached to the at least one shelving unit, extending along and closely adjacent to one of the front and rear walls, and secured to the divider element so as to urge ~~urging~~ the divider element in a predetermined direction, wherein food items positioned on the at least one shelving unit are automatically engaged by the divider element in order to be maintained in a snug configuration in the first storage zone while maintaining the second storage zone available as additional storage space.

2. (original) The refrigerator according to claim 1, wherein the retainer assembly further includes a support arm extending from the divider element, said support arm mounting the divider element for sliding movement relative to the at least one shelving unit.

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3. (currently amended) A refrigerator comprising:

- a cabinet shell;
- a liner arranged in the cabinet shell and defining a food compartment;
- a door attached to and movable relative to the cabinet shell in order to selectively access the food compartment;
- at least one shelving unit provided in the food compartment, said at least one shelving unit including front, rear, bottom and opposing side walls and being adapted to support food items thereon; and
- a retainer assembly for securing food items on the at least one shelving unit, said retainer assembly including a divider element mounted for movement along a defined axis relative to the at least one shelving unit, and a biasing member attached to the at least one shelving unit, extending along and closely adjacent to one of the front and rear walls, and secured to the divider element so as to urge urging the divider element in a predetermined direction, wherein food items positioned on the at least one shelving unit are automatically engaged by the divider element in order to be maintained in a snug configuration, wherein the retainer assembly further includes a support arm extending from the divider element, said support arm mounting the divider element for sliding movement relative to the at least one shelving unit and wherein the at least one shelving unit is defined by a door pick-off bucket including at least one upstanding wall, said support arm being directly, slidably supported by the at least one upstanding wall.

4. (original) The refrigerator according to claim 3, wherein the at least one upstanding wall constitutes a front wall of the door pick-off bucket.

5. (currently amended) A refrigerator comprising:

- a cabinet shell;
- a liner arranged in the cabinet shell and defining a food compartment;
- a door attached to and movable relative to the cabinet shell in order to selectively access the food compartment;

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at least one shelving unit provided in the food compartment, said at least one shelving unit including front, rear, bottom and opposing side walls and being adapted to support food items thereon; and

a retainer assembly for securing food items on the at least one shelving unit, said retainer assembly including a divider element mounted for movement along a defined axis relative to the at least one shelving unit, and a biasing member attached to the at least one shelving unit, extending along and closely adjacent to one of the front and rear walls, and secured to the divider element so as to urge urging the divider element in a predetermined direction, wherein food items positioned on the at least one shelving unit are automatically engaged by the divider element in order to be maintained in a snug configuration, wherein the biasing member constitutes a spiral spring extending directly along a wall of the at least one shelving unit.

6. (original) The refrigerator according to claim 5, wherein the spiral spring includes first and second end portions, with the first end portion being attached to the divider element and the second end portion being attached to the at least one shelving unit.

7. (original) The refrigerator according to claim 1, wherein the retainer assembly further includes a pair of plates which are spaced so as to define a cavity therebetween, said biasing member including a first end portion which extends into the cavity.

8. (original) The refrigerator according to claim 7, wherein the at least one shelving unit is formed with at least one opening, said biasing member including a second end portion directly attached to the at least one shelving unit through said opening.

9. (original) The refrigerator according to claim 1, wherein the biasing member constitutes a tension spring.

10-18. (canceled)

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19. (currently amended) A method of retaining food items on a shelving unit of a refrigerator comprising:

positioning the food items on the shelving unit, having front, rear, bottom and laterally spaced side walls between a divider element movably attached to the shelving unit and a wall within the refrigerator, said divider element extending between the front and rear walls, thereby establishing first and second laterally spaced storage zones; and

automatically, laterally shifting the divider element against the food items by biasing the divider element through the use of a spring member that is attached to the shelving unit, extends along and adjacent to one of the front and rear walls, and is secured to the divider element in order to retain the food items in the first storage zone on the shelving unit in a snug configuration, while the second storage zone is maintained available as additional storage.

20. (canceled)

21. (original) The method of claim 19, wherein the automatic shifting of the divider element constitutes sliding the divider element relative to the shelving unit.